



south dakota
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Learning. Leadership. Service.

700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2291

T 605.773.3134

F 605.773.6139

www.doe.sd.gov

TO: School Personnel

FR: Sandra Kangas, Supervisor, Child & Adult Nutrition Services
Kari Senger, Team Leader, Coordinated School Health

DT: November 28, 2005

RE: School Wellness Policies

Congress recognized that schools play a critical role in promoting student health, preventing childhood obesity, and combating problems associated with poor nutrition and physical inactivity. This is more than just a health issue, since the healthy, nutritional astute and physically active child is more likely to be academically successful.

All agencies that participate in the National School Lunch, Breakfast, or Milk Programs are required to establish a local Wellness Policy by the beginning of school year 2006-2007. The legislation places the responsibility of developing a wellness policy at the local level, so that the individual needs of each district can be addressed. A team must be formed to develop the local policy.

The State Board of Education adopted a wellness policy on September 19, 2005. A copy of that policy is enclosed. It is also available on the Department of Education website at <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/>. Look in the upper right-hand corner for the "school health" section. The model policy is meant to be a guide for schools when they develop their local policy.

Enclosed is a document with frequently asked questions about the wellness policy requirement. In addition, the South Dakota School Height and Weight report for 2003-2004 has been enclosed for your information. For more information on this report go to www.healthySD.gov and click on schools. The web sites for Child and Adult Nutrition Services and Coordinated School Health can also be found on this site.

Many school districts have already recognized the need to assist their students by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity. We encourage you to take an active role in the development of the local wellness policy in your district.

Additional questions can be addressed to Sandra (605-773-4746) or Kari (605-773-4257).